GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1692
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2007
COMPUTER EDUCATION IN PANCHAYATS
Athawale Shri Ramdas

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide at least one computer in each Panchayat to encourage computer education in villages;

(a) if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of funds allocated for the said purpose during each of the last three years and till date, State-wise; and

(c) whether the funds provided are sufficient to achieve the targets?

Answer

MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) & (b): In accordance with the resolutions passed in the Seventh Round Table of Ministers of Panchayati Raj held at Jaipur on 17-19 December 2004, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has initiated a Mission Mode Project under the National e-Governance Programme (NeGP) of the Government of India for providing computers to all the Panchayats in the country during the Eleventh Plan Period (2007-12). The main components of the Mission Mode Project are to provide hardware upto the Gram Panchayat level; network connectivity; training and capacity building of the elected representatives and officials of PRIs in e-governance; and content management.

The computerization of Panchayati Raj Institutions will make their own functioning transparent and will help improve the delivery of citizen-centric services rendered by Panchayats such as issuing Birth Certificates, Death Certificates, Income Certificates, Land Records, Management of Financial Accounts, Redressal of Grievances and prompt issue of application forms & documents. An added benefit of the computerization of Panchayats will be the penetration of computer education in the villages.

(c): The Ministry came into existence on 27 May 2004 and during the financial year 2004-05 there was no scheme for providing financial assistance for the computerization of Panchayats. During the financial year 2005-06, under the Scheme of Information Technology, assistance of Rs 1.00 crore each was provided to the Government of Goa and Orissa for the computerization of Panchayats. Assistance of Rs 2.00 crore was also provided during the financial year 2005-06 to the Government of Sikkim for the computerization of Panchayats under the allocation for the development of the North-Eastern Region .

During the financial year 2006-07, an allocation of Rs 8.00 crore was made available to the Ministry under the Information Technology Component of the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Yojana. This was utilized for assisting States for the provision of computer hardware as per the following details:-

S.No.	State	Amount (Rs in Crores)
1.	Kerala	2.53
2.	West Bengal	2.60
3.	Rajasthan	2.00
4.	Puducherry	0.87
	Total	8.00

In addition, an amount of Rs 3.04 crore was provided during the financial year 2006-07 to the Government of Sikkim for the completion of the computerization of their Panchayats under the allocation for the development of North Eastern Region.

(d): No, Sir. Funds are not at present sufficient for the computerization of all the Panchayats. Therefore, in order to achieve the computerization of all Panchayats in the country, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has planned to augment its funds under the Mission Mode Project of e-Panchayats. The Ministry is also in consultation with the World Bank which has shown interest to fund part of the Mission Mode Project of e-Panchayats under the e-Bharat Programme.